

**Missouri Assessment Program
Spring 2005**

Communication Arts

Rangefinders for Released Writing Prompt

Grade 11

WRITING

Directions

Now you will write a paper in response to a writing prompt. First, read the prompt in the box below.

Then use the separate paper your teacher has given you for your prewriting activity (such as brainstorming, listing, freewriting, clustering, mapping, or drawing).

After you finish your prewriting activity, write your first draft on the separate paper your teacher has given you. Look back at your prewriting activity for ideas.

Writing Prompt

You have read passages that deal with personal decisions that affect others. Write a paper to persuade a classmate that personal decisions affect other people.

Go On ►

You better believe personal decisions affect other people. Every day we are faced with many decisions. Sometimes we don't take time to think how our decisions could affect other people. Even the simple decision of what socks to wear in the morning could affect others. The others could be your gym class having to smell your dirty socks.

Some decisions have good effects. If you compliment somebody they will probably be content enough to pass on the compliment. Also maybe the next time it is cold and you are offered a ride, wouldn't you be more willing to pass on the generosity? Every nice thing you do, others will see and more good will come from it.

On those horrible mornings, when our feet can't seem to find the floor, we find our decisions harder. You might tease your little sister, not meaning to make her day bad and send her to school with tear-stained eyes. Your bad mood may allow you to forget to include everyone. This could cause

more hate and sadness in the world. Every bad decision we choose affects others twice as much as good decisions. Also, the bad ones never seem to be forgotten.

You can look at decisions like dominoes. When one gets knocked over, they all get knocked over. When one person cheats, another person cheats. Whenever you get angry, and your mouth gets the best of you, your language is spread like a contagious disease (All it takes is one person to step out, and then the rest will follow. Most of the time everyone is waiting for someone to just take the first step.) That is a big decision!

Now I think you should think twice before making decisions. Big or little, they still affect others. Is someone watching you? You could be a hero or a role model. What would your admirer do? They would do exactly what you do! So I hope you see every decision affects more people than you will ever know!

Score Point 3+

- Has an effective beginning, middle and end (particularly strong, effective opening statement).
- Contains a controlling idea .
- Progresses in logical order.
- Uses cohesive devices.
- Addresses the topic using relevant details, reasons and examples.
- Uses precise and vivid language (tear-stained eyes, contagious disease)
- Has a strong voice (You better believe; What would your admirer do?).
- Uses humor (your gym class having to smell your dirty socks).
- Uses sentences that are clear and varied in structure.

Everyone in this world has decisions to make. Whether it be a minute detail or a decision that is life changing, we decide a lot. Well, what if I told you that almost every decision you make affects not only you, but others? The decisions you make affects more than just you.

The most minute decision could affect someone else. For example, if you were eating dinner and decided to throw half of it away. No big deal, right? Wrong; that half of a meal could have fed a hungry person and given them the nourishment and strength to carry on another day. Another thing would be that coat you don't wear anymore because it is out of style. That coat is a form of shelter to some. It provides warmth and protection from the cold. Even the small decisions that do not seem trivial could affect someone else.

Other decisions you make affect people the same way. An example would be a teacher not acknowledging the problems a student has with his/her school work. Due to the teacher's decision, that child could go on to have physical or social problems; maybe

ne/she would even flunk out. Fortunately, it works the other way too. You can have a positive affect on someone else. If you help, that child could go on to be the next Albert Einstein. Either way you look at it, your decisions still affect other people.

Your decisions, whether big or small, affect others. These decisions can have a positive or negative affect on others. Everyone makes decisions and everyone affects other's lives. However, it is up to you whether your decision has a positive or negative affect.

Score Point 3

- Has a clear beginning, middle and end.
- Uses paragraphing appropriately.
- Contains a controlling idea.
- Progresses in logical order.
- Uses effective cohesive devices.
- Addresses the topic using relevant details and examples with some development.
- Uses precise, creative language (that child could go on to be the next Albert Einstein).
- Shows strong awareness of audience and purpose.

I believe personal decisions can affect other people. I'm not saying that every personal decision you make does, but it happens sometimes. There are decisions that one person can make and that decision can either benefit or destroy someone else. People should think about what is going to result from their made decision. They should ask themselves, "Will this hurt or benefit anyone?" "Am I making the right decision?" "Are there going to be any consequences for the decision I am making?"

When you hear "personal," you think of yourself and private, but that is sometimes wrong. An example of making good personal decisions would be sticking up for a friend. You made a personal decision to help someone out. Let me tell you, they are extremely grateful of you.

You are also making a personal decision when giving compliments. Giving someone a compliment can really make their day. You don't have to give compliments, but you make a personal decision to do so.

I just got done reading a story about a man named Chad, who loved the Mississippi River and he lived really close. Chad started noticing that it was becoming filled with garbage. He didn't like the site of it at all, so he made a personal decision to clean up the river. He didn't have a plan, but he had determination. After a little hard work, Chad had restored huge parts of the river. That personal decision not only made Chad happy, but others were happy too.

Those were all examples of good personal decisions. You can also make bad personal decisions.

One example would be someone choosing to drink and drive. They could get in a wreck and not only hurt themselves, but also hurt innocent people.

Everyone makes personal decisions that can affect others. You just need to make the decisions that will benefit you or someone else. Personal decisions are personal, which means they deal with you, but they also deal with others.

Score Point 3-

- Has a clear beginning, middle and end.
- Uses paragraphing appropriately.
- Generally progresses in logical order.
- Addresses the topic using reasons and examples (example of Chad is the most developed; others are very generalized and vague).
- Shows little complexity or freshness of thought.
- Shows some awareness of audience and purpose.
- Contains a few errors in grammar/usage ("their made decisions; "grateful of you").

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Personal decisions effect more than just the person making the decision. Personal decisions can effect a numerous amount of people. It all depends on what kind of decision it is.

For example, if you decide to drink and drive and you get into an accident and hurt or kill yourself or some one else you just changed the life of every person who knew you or that person. Although it was a personal decision for you to drink and drive it effected many other people.

Another example of how a personal decision effects others is if you litter. When you litter you effect the whole world. I beleive one of these days probably one-hundred years from now the world will be no thing but

trash. So when you decide to litter your personal decision effects everyone on Earth for years to come.

So as you can see from the points I stated in the above paragraphs that just because you think your decision is only going to effect you it can really effect numairges people around you.

Score Point 2+

- Has a beginning, middle and end.
- Contains a sense of direction (litter example has some digression) .
- Uses elementary transitions (for example, another example, so).
- Addresses the topic, but relies on generalities rather than specifics. Uses two examples which are predictable.
- Uses simplistic language.
- Lacks complexity and freshness of thought.

Decisions not only affect the person who made the decision. Decisions can do numerous things, they can help you, or they can hurt you. But they also affect others the same they can hurt them or help them. Decisions are very difficult to make, for everyone.

When making a decision remember it's not only going to affect you but others as well. Try to keep in mind the people you will be affecting with your decision, and how it will affect them, as well as yourself. Will your decision help them, or hurt them? And will your decision help you, or will it hurt you? Keep this in mind.

Before you make a decision keep in mind the affects, And possible options you might have. That way you can choose the right thing to do. Decisions can affect yours and a others whole life.

Decisions need to be thought about, and carefully planned out before the decision is ever made.

Score Point 2

- Has evidence of a beginning, middle and end.
- Addresses the topic, but relies on general, repetitive information which lack specific examples ("remember it's not only going to affect you but others as well.").
- Contains sentences that are generally clear but lack variety and complexity.
- Lacks complexity and freshness of thought.
- Contains some errors in grammar/usage (your's and a nother) that may be distracting.

Your decisions effect other people in many ways. For example if you drink and drove with your friend riding with you and you drive off the road and your friend got hurt or died. It would be your fault for drinking and driving. Or if you got hurt or killed it would effect your friends and family.

If you were having a bad day and acted at someone, and made them feel bad and made them have a bad day. So your decisions do effect other people in many ways.

Score Point 2-

- Has minimal evidence of a beginning, middle and end.
- Attempts paragraphing.
- Lacks focus.
- Addresses the topic using one example that is not developed.
- Contains run-on sentences and fragments .
- Shows some awareness of audience and purpose.
- Contains errors in grammar/usage and spelling that are distracting.

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Dear Classmate,
Most of the time when people make a decision they do not realize that it will most likely effect other people. Your decisions can effect people in a good or a bad way. Hopefully you understand your impact on other people, and when you make a decision you will choose something that will have a positive impact. Whether or not you mean for your decisions to have an impact on other people, they usually will effect someone else. So in the upcoming future put other people in consideration when deciding what path to choose.

Score Point 1+

- Lacks evidence of a beginning and end.
- Has one idea with no examples or support.
- Contains a long run-on sentence.
- Shows some awareness of audience and purpose
- Lacks complexity and freshness of thought.

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Like if you go to the Navy like I'm going to do, that's your own decision, but it could effect your family, and even your friends, because you will be gone for a long time. And that's just one reason personal decisions can effect other people.

Score Point 1

- Lacks evidence of an introduction or conclusion.
- Addresses topic and uses one example but lacks any development.

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